

Record of Telephone Interview

The undersigned attorney for Applicant conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Williams on January 16, 2008. The parties discussed claim 1 and Morita, U.S. Pat. No. 5,652,499 and Yang, U.S. Pat. No. 6,563,713. Applicant explained that Morita and Yang shows the type of prior art systems that the invention was developed to improve upon, namely each reference shows an electric device that has a first receptacle with a first power terminal for receiving a battery and a second receptacle with a second power terminal for receiving an auxiliary power plug. In the present invention, on the other hand, the same receptacle and power terminal receives both the battery and the auxiliary power plug. Examiner Williams explained that he was reading the claim language power terminal "electrically connecting" to both the battery and the auxiliary power cord broadly by considering the "power terminal" to be a structure that includes multiple power terminals (i.e. the battery terminal and the power cord terminal) that are electrically connected together internally within the device. The parties discussed a proposed amendment to further distinguish the claimed invention by stating that the power terminal "physically engages" with both the battery and the auxiliary power cord to overcome the rejection. Examiner Williams indicated that an amendment of this type would overcome the rejection stated in the first Official Action but final agreement regarding allowable subject matter was not reached.

Remarks

Applicant thanks Examiner Williams for his careful examination of the application and the courtesy extended during the telephone interview. Claims 1-16 are pending with none having been allowed. All of the claims stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Morita, U.S. Pat. No. 5,652,499 or rendered obvious by Morita in view of Yang, U.S. Pat. No. 6,563,713 and certain other references. Basically, Applicant has attempted to claim an electric device in which a single power terminal can receive both a battery and an auxiliary power cord. Referring to Fig. 1, Morita discloses an electric device that include a first receptacle 2A with associated power terminals for receiving a battery BP1 and a second receptacle 8 with associated power terminals for receiving an auxiliary power cord 9. Similarly, Fig. 7 of Yang, U.S. Pat. No. 6,563,713 shows an electric device that include a first receptacle 11 with associated power terminals (i.e., the

battery button terminals inside the battery receptacle 11) for receiving a pair of batteries and a second receptacle 5 with an associated power terminal for receiving an auxiliary power cord 9. In both references, separate power terminals are provided for connecting to the battery versus the auxiliary power cord.

Applicant's invention is an electric device in which the same power terminal connects to both the battery and the auxiliary power cord, thereby obviating the need for a redundant receptacle for the auxiliary power cord. As the inventive configuration inherently prevents the battery and the auxiliary power cord from being connected to the device at the same time, the invention also obviates the need for a voltage detector to determine whether auxiliary power is available and a switch to disconnect the battery from the power circuit when auxiliary power is available. Application at 2/19-28. Applicant's invention results in a more efficient and cost effective product. None of the cited references teach or suggest a battery receptacle or power terminal that also serves as a receptacle or associated power terminal for an auxiliary power cord.

From the telephone interview, Applicant understands that the Examiner is reading the original claim language broadly to encompass two power terminals that are electrically connected to each other through the internal wiring of the electric device as a single power terminal configured to be "electrically connect" to both the battery and the power cord. Examiner Williams suggested an amendment to the claims to state that the dual-purpose power terminal "physically engages" with both the battery and the power cord to distinguish the cited references. Applicant has entered the suggested Amendment along with some further clarifications to overcome the rejection and place the application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that further amendment is required through an Examiner's amendment, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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